(b) what is this formula and what is the nature of this agreement;

(c) what is the rationale on which this agreement is based; and

(d) what is the total financial burdon because of this agreement on the Government and on the PSUs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The Government have not signed any agreement with the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) on 16th March, 1993^for the new formula of Industrial D.A. linkage with respect to Public Sector employees. However, based on the -recommendations of the tripartite Committee on Industrial Dearness Allowance, Government announced its decision on 16th March, 1993 to enhance the rate of Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) payable to the employees of the Central Public Sector Enterprises, to whom Industrial Dearness Allowance is applicable, from Rs. 1.65 fixed on 1-4-1983 to Rs. 2.00 per point increase, linked to the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) 800 points, with effect from 1-1-1989. Arrears of Industrial Dearness Allowance due for the period from 1-1-1989 to 31-12-1991 would be credited to the Provident Fund of the employees to the extent of 50%, the balance 50% being disbursed in cash. It is estimated that over 20 Iikh employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises shall stand to benefit on account of this measure. The expenditure on account of enhancing the Industrial Dearness Allowance rate is estimated :it Rs. 546.85 crores for the years 1989 to 1992.

POOR PERFORMANCE OF FALTA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

*437. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of Falta Export Processing Zone out of the four EPZs in the country was the lowest;

(b) whether the factors responsible therefor have been identified; and

(c) if so, what are the details and th« corrective steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The export performance upto 199 J-92 of the Falta EPZ is comparable to that of the Cochin Zone also approved in 1983. Performance of the zone has however, been adversely affected in the current year mainly on account of dislocation of exports to the Rupee Payment Areas. With recent improvements in the EPZ scheme, a greater number of new units are likely to be established in the zontf-

DECREASE IN TRADE GAP

*438. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether removal of restrictions on import of goods has resulted in commensurable increase in exports from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IMF aids influenced the removal of restrictions on imports;

(d) whether trade gap decreased as a result of such removal of restrictions on imports; and

(e) what is the present quantum of trade gap ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) During April-January 1992-93, exports have increased by 2.2% compared to increase of 14.61% of imports over the corresponding period of 1991-92. Increase in imports in April-January 1992-93 appears large as compared to April-January 1991,-92 owing to severe import compression in 1991-92. As compared to April-January 1990-91, import* in April-January 1992-93 have declined by 9.84%.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Trade balance at the end of April-January 1992-93 is estimated at US $ 3596.39 million which is larger than the trade balance of US $ 1583.81 million at the end of April-January 1991-92 but lower than US $ 5446.54 million as at the end of the corresponding period of 1990-91.

गुजरात की सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में कालाबाजारी

*439. श्री राम सिंह राठवा : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में गुजरात नागरिक आपूर्ति निगम के कुछ कर्मचारियों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं की कालाबाजारी करने के लिए गिरफ्तार किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार ने भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं । तथापि, 1986 में लेखा-परीक्षा के दौरान निगम के एक कर्मचारी द्वारा सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं का दुरुपयोग किए जाने की बात सामने आई थी । उक्त कर्मचारी को निलम्बित कर दिया गया था और उसके विरुद्ध सिविल और आपराधिक शिकायतें दायर की गई थीं । फरवरी, 1993 में उक्त कर्मचारी को मुख्य न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट द्वारा दोषी करार दिया गया । तथापि, सेशन अदालत में अपील किए जाने पर कारावास के आदेश को निलम्बित कर दिया गया है ।

(ग) गुजरात राज्य नागरिक आपूर्ति निगम में, गोदामों के कारबार की जांच करने के अलावा सनदी लेखाकारों की बाहरी एजेंसी द्वारा आन्तरिक लेखा परीक्षा करवाने की एक प्रणाली मौजूद है ।

Export of Molasses

*440. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of molasses exported in 1991-92;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the export of molasses during 1993-94; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) ; (a) As per statistics brought out by the DGCI&s, molasses exported during 1991-92 was 287504 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Deregulation of PDS

3804. SHRI MATANG SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for deregulation and debureaucratisation of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country with a view to drastically cutting food subsidy and dismantle huge chain of vested interest acquired over years by those who are running PDS; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken/ proposal under consideration for revamping of PDS alongwith implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. While the Central Government has no proposal to drastically reduce the food subsidy, continuous efforts are made to strengthen and streamline the PDS. Such efforts are directed towards improving the reach of the PDS, minimising diversion of PDS commodities by vested interests and to make avail-